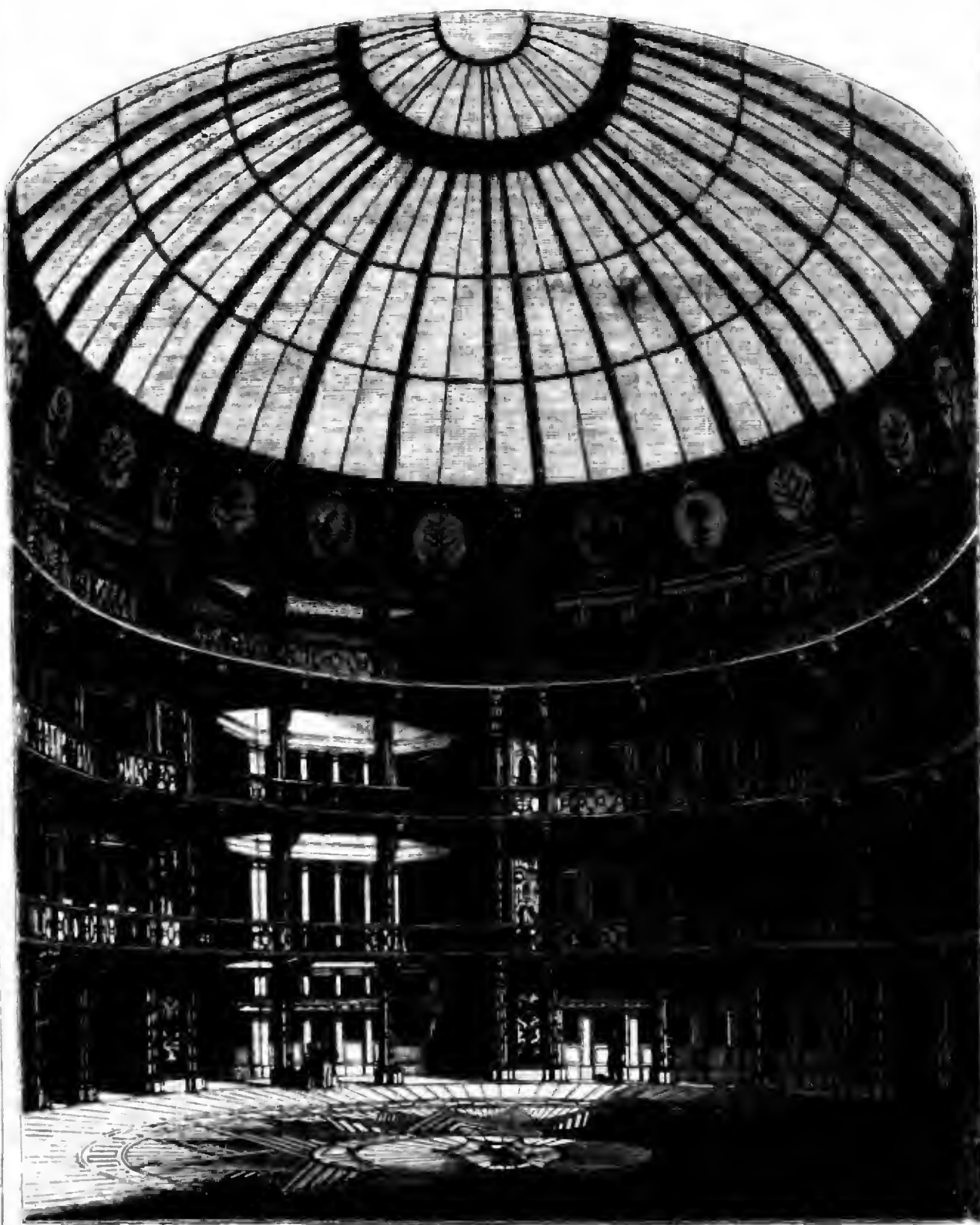


THE LONDON COAL EXCHANGE, THAMES-STREET.

MR. BUNNING, F.R.S.A., ARCHTCT.



INTERIOR OF THE LONDON COAL EXCHANGE, THAMES-STREET.

THE interior of the new London Coal Exchange, now nearly completed, at the corner of Lower Thames-street and St. Mary-at-Hill, under the direction of Mr. Bunning, architect to the corporation, presents a considerable novelty both in design and decoration. It includes a circular area for the meeting of the merchants, 60 feet in diameter, with three galleries running round it, which communicate with suitable offices; and the area is covered by a glazed dome, the eye of which is 74 feet from the floor.

The galleries are peculiarly constructed, and entirely composed of iron, embellished with symbols of the coal trade. The stauncheons, brackets, ribs and eye of the dome are also of iron, and the panels (twenty-four in number) are ornamented with printings of the plants and fossil remains found in the coal series, from drawings made by Mr. Melhado, a pupil of the architect, from specimens in the British Museum, and painted by Mr. Sang in encaustic. The eight smaller compartments are filled in with implements used in the coal district. The panels in the galleries contain figures of the miners, which are less satisfactory in execution.

Each rib, of which there are thirty-two, is 42 feet 6 inches long, and is cast in one length, averaging in weight 2 tons: there are in all about 300 tons of iron, including the gully plates, stauncheons, brackets, &c. The galleries are about 12 feet from floor to floor. The cupola is glazed with ground plate glass, and the eye with amber-coloured glass. The ornamented portions of the stauncheons, gallery railing, soffits, &c., display in almost too great profusion the rope form. The floor of the area represents the mariner's compass, in the centre of which are the City arms, composed of different woods. A portion of the decorative part of this floor is formed with part of an oak tree